

Registration Packet



Cuba Mission

Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel.

June 24 – July 1, 2013

**Havana, Santa Clara, Cienfuegos,
Trinidad de Cuba**

Join Rabbi Jaymee Alpert and Aaron Kischel on this insightful trip of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort. We will have experiences offered to few travelers to this tropical island nation. You will make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters.

And you will experience Cuba

**Cuba is changing rapidly;
Now really is the time!**

This mission is solely to assist the Jews of Cuba under a general religious license issued to Congregation Kneses Tifereth Israel by the US Department of the Treasury.

Program includes:

Price includes:

- Eight days/ 7 nights in Cuba.
- Air between (r/t) Miami–Havana
- Please note: hotel in Miami the night of June 23rd is not included in the mission package – if you wish to stay at the Crowne Plaza near the International Airport please see registration form - you will be contacted Synagogue Solutions USA.
- Accommodations at:
 - Melia Cohiba – 5 star hotel – 5 nights

Frommer's Review Sitting just off the Malecón, this high-rise hotel, with its sharp angles and alternating walls of stone and glass, is probably the most modern building in Havana. It provides all the services and amenities luxury travelers are looking for in a top-rated hotel. Rooms are large and comfortable, and most have excellent views, particularly those on the higher floors. It's got a wonderful outdoor pool and the best-equipped health club I've found at any hotel in Havana. The Cohiba has a wide range of restaurants and shops, and even its buffet restaurant is a treat, with live cook stations and enough space and flow so as not to feel like a cattle car. The Habana Café is one of the better club/restaurants in town, with a nightly floor show and live music.

- Hotel Jagua – Cienfuegos – 2 nights.– boutique hotel on the bay in Cienfuegos

Frommer's Review The seven-story hotel is located out on the end of Punta Gorda, just across from the Palacio del Valle. The modern rooms are spacious, comfortable, cool, and bright, with a large sliding-glass door to let in light, white tile floors, and plenty of amenities. Those on the higher floors of the main building offer wonderful views over the city and harbor from private balconies. There's a large rectangular pool at the center of this complex, and a popular bar located on a small floating dock in the bay.

- 16 Included Meals - 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners including Erev Shabbat meal with the Jewish community at the Patronato
- Optional Shabbat lunch at the Sephardic Center – guide can take money for lunch early in the visit (15 CUC)
- Meals to include two main course choices and one included beverage. One course at each meal to comply with following dietary rules:
 - no meat, or meat and/or chicken stock in food preparation.
 - no shell fish or stock containing shell fish
 - options offered will include vegetarian, fish, and/or pasta
 - cheeses allowed
- Meetings with the Jewish Community.
- Professional English speaking guide. Manny.
- Erev Shabbat services at El Patronato.
- Optional : Shabbat services at the Sephardic Center and lunch
- Entrance fees to included sites.
- Lecture (PowerPoint presentation) by Professor Maritza Corrales. (*or if not available other speaker on topic pertinent to Cuba*)

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- Tour of Jewish Cemeteries in Havana and Santa Clara
- Guided tour of the Bellas Artes Museum by museum curator and member of Havana's Jewish Community.
- Tips at included meals.
- Gratuity to driver and guide. (plus a small voluntary tip)
- Porterage – includes tips:
 - Cuban Hotels - in/out
- Bottled water when on the bus (2 bottles per day per person)
- Airport transfers in Cuba.
- USA airport tax.
- Cuban Tourist Visa for non-Cuban born participants.
- Land transportation in Cuba by A/C motor coach
- Practical travel information.
- “Welcome to Cuba” packet in Cuba.
- Health insurance in Cuba – please see below

Not included:

- Transportation to Miami International
- Hotel in Miami – see registration form
- Trip cancellation insurance – please see below
- **BAGGAGE:** All baggage is weighed: check-in bags, donations, and carry-ons. Each person is allowed 44 lbs free. You may bring as much weight as you wish but must pay for the excess weight.
 - **NOTE:** No single bag may weigh over 70 pounds.
 - **FEES:** Each passenger will have all of his or her baggage weighed—including the carry-on luggage. Everything over 44 lbs. will be charged at \$2.00 per pound.
 - **CHECKED BAGGAGE FEES:** \$20.00 will be charged for each checked baggage.
 - **CARRY ON ALLOWANCE:** Passengers can bring one small carryon bag, plus one personal item. The carry-on bag must not exceed the dimensions of the airline size. 22 inches long x 14 inches wide x 9 inches tall
- No camera fees included at museums etc
- Cuban Airport departure tax (25 CUC approximately \$30) paid upon your departure from Cuba.
- **Donations to Assist the Jewish Community of Cuba**
Religious, medical & humanitarian items: as part of participation in the mission each participant must bring at least 15 lbs. of supplies. Upon registration a “needs” list of donations will be provided to you.
- **Voluntary Cash Tzedakah contribution** – a voluntary contribution of between \$50-\$100 per participant is requested which will be distributed to the Jewish Communities we will visit.
- Guide will offer optional evening activities which are not part of the mission itinerary.

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Mission cost per person from **MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT:**

For payment of both the deposit and balance payments by check:

Double occupancy: \$ 2995 per person

Single occupancy: \$ 3365 per person

For payment of either or both the deposit and balance payments by credit card:

Double occupancy: \$ 3070 per person

Single occupancy: \$ 3450 per person

Registration Deadline is April 8, 2013.

The registration forms must be completed legibly and received along with TWO LEGIBLE COPIES OF THE PHOTO PAGE OF YOUR PASSPORT

AND a **\$600 per person deposit by the close of business 4/8/2013.**

The Deposit is nonrefundable after that date.

Balance is due by **May 13, 2013**, and is not refundable after that date.

Participation on first come; first served basis based on receipt of deposit and completed registration materials

Your completed registration forms, passport copies along with your payment information or check should be sent to:

**Harry Silverman
Synagogue Solutions USA
6211 Greenview Terrace
Boca Raton, FL 33433**

For questions please contact:

Harry Silverman – Synagogue Solutions USA

Tel: (561) 961 - 9460; email: harry@synagoguesolutionsusa.org

IMPORTANT PASSPORT INFORMATION

To participate in this mission your passport must be valid for at least **SIX MONTHS to the day after our ARRIVAL IN CUBA ON June 24th**. Your passport must have an expiration date approximately after December 24, 2013. Please do not register until your passport is valid. **Once you have registered with a valid passport you must not renew or change your passport as it will void your Cuban Visa.**

CANCELLATION & MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

PLEASE NOTE: The purchase of cancellation/medical travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Most travel insurance policies include both cancellation and medical coverage.

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To have a **preexisting condition covered** you will need to purchase your insurance **within 14 days from the date of your deposit check for the mission.**

PURCHASING CANCELLATION & MEDICAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

- You may purchase from the insurance company of your choice.
- Additionally you may purchase from Allianz Global by **calling 800-284-8300 or by going to our mission operator's web page www.worldpassagetd.com and clicking the INSURANCE/CELL PHONE LINK.**
- When purchasing an Allianz policy by phone please give to the Access America agent the **ACCAM number: F027117**. This is the identification number of our mission coordinator and will facilitate your application process.
- "THE BASIC" policy offered by Allianz is adequate – the decisions is yours.
- **PLEASE DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE INSURER OF YOUR CHOICE.**

INSURANCE IN CUBA – In case you need medical treatment, hospitals and clinics for tourists are conveniently located throughout the country. **Cuban medical insurance is included in the price of the mission** and covers 100% of medical expenses up to \$25,000 and re-patriation or transportation due to illness, accident, or death (up to \$7000) - except as noted below. Your hotel has first aid station and nurse for immediate attention to minor illnesses or injuries. Your insurance will cover treatment in the hotel and at a clinic if necessary. **PLEASE NOTE:** Cuban health insurance does not cover treatment for a **pre-existing condition** – you are liable for the costs incurred from the treatment of a preexisting condition. You may seek reimbursement from your USA insurance company; if your USA policy so provides.

HEALTH – **This is not a very strenuous trip. However,** there will be walking over cobbled stone streets and stairs at some locations and so a certain level of mobility is required. If you have a pre-existing condition, chronic medical condition or question your ability to keep up with the group, **you must speak with Harry Silverman.**

A GREAT MITZVAH – A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE – A FUN TRIP

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Subject to change

Monday June 24 (D)

- Group will meet at MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – concourse D at 8:30 am – You will be provided more detailed information later.
- Miami to Havana: AA9426 - Departure 11:30 am – Arrival: 12:30 pm – An American Airlines' plane and crew but not a AA scheduled flight; leased by Department of the Treasury licensed airline charter company.
- Lunch not provided – please eat at airport
- Meet guide and driver at airport
- Group photo – Plaza de la Revolucion
- Visit to the main synagogue of Havana - Casa de la Comunidad Hebrea de Cuba (El Patronato); (donations for both Patronato and Sephardic center will be dropped off later in the mission)
- Visit to Patronato Pharmacy
- Check in at our Hotel – Melia Cohiba

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- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: Lecture and PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Jews of Cuba
- A welcome cocktail will be served.
- Short mission briefing. Discuss Itinerary; Paladares; Optional Evening Activities.
- Welcome Dinner – El Templete (included meal)

Tuesday June 25 (B, L)

Breakfast at Hotel

- Guided tour of the Bellas Artes museum – led by museum curator and member of the Jewish Community of Havana
- Tour of Old Havana.
- Lunch at La Dominica in Habana Vieja. (Included meal).
- Continued tour of old Havana
- Meet with Mayra Levy – President of the Sephardic Community – Senior Center – Shoah Exhibit – Presentation of donations.
- Visit to craft market – bus will stay then return to hotel. Those wishing to stay longer may take one of the many taxis.
- Dinner at your leisure to enjoy the many wonderful private restaurants in the Capital; you will be provided with a list of a few recommendations and as always you guide is there to help. And do not forget the music!

Wednesday June 26 (B, L, D)

Breakfast at Hotel

- As we will be returning to the hotel you may choose to check a bag with the concierge.
- Travel to Santa Clara then Cienfuegos in Central Cuba
- In Santa Clara we will visit with the small Jewish Community at the Jewish Cemetery that contains the second Holocaust memorial in Cuba. Presentation of humanitarian gifts and donations.
- Visit to Che Memorial
- Lunch at La Granjita (included meal)
- Travel to Cienfuegos
- Check in to our hotel – Hotel Jagua
- We will meet with the small Jewish Community at the home of one of its members – presentation of humanitarian gifts and donation.
- Optional activity: sunset cruise on bay – open bar – time and weather permitting
- Dinner at our hotel at a time of your choosing. (Included meal).

Thursday June 27 (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel.

- We travel to Trinidad de Cuba for the day.
- Visit to one of Trinidad's many museums which reflect the richness of the town when sugar was king.
- Lunch at your leisure.
- After lunch, time to explore on your own. There is a great craft market!
- Late afternoon, the bus will return to Cienfuegos.
- Choral group performance
- Dinner at Palacio del Valle. (included meal)

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Friday June 28 (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel.

- Early Departure for Havana
- Visit to Jose Rodriguez Fuster's HOME- STUDIO, the Caribbean Picasso. His home is his art – something very special.
- Lunch at La Fermina (included meal)
- Check in to our hotel – Melia Cohiba.
- Shabbat services at El Patronato.
- Dinner at the Patronato with community. (included meal)

Saturday June 29 (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

- Services at Sephardic Center or Patronato available
- Optional: Lunch with Community at Sephardic Center – payment to guide at beginning of the visit
- No scheduled activities.
- After Shabbat - 8:30 pm – optional performance at Gran Teatro or other optional activities which your guide will discuss.

Sunday June 30 (B, L, D)

Breakfast at hotel

- Tour of Hemingway's home in Cuba – just as he left it.
- Guanabacoa, outside of Havana, to visit the Jewish cemetery with the first Holocaust Memorial built in the Western Hemisphere.
- Lunch at El Patio (included meal)
- Farmers market
- Farewell Dinner – Café del Oriente (included meal)
- Optional: Tropicana – A Cuban institution since the 30's – 10:30 pm – 12:30 am

Monday July 1 (B)

Breakfast at hotel; later check out of hotel to accommodate prior evening's activities.

- A couple of unusual stops
- **Current flight schedule:** AA 9427 Depart: 1:30 pm – Arrive 2:30 pm